

# BEARS

Three big old sheep eating bears were killed in Pocahontas county last week. One on the head of Greenbrier River, one on Big Spring of Elk River, and one on the head of Williams River.

A bear killed a sheep for Sheriff Reid Moore on his place near Linwood. The sheep was found. It was hung up in a tree and a bear trap planted under it. The next night the bear came back, walked around the trap several times, and slipped his paw under the trap and turned it over. He then killed another sheep and ate part of it. The neighborhood went bear hunting last Friday morning. Charles Tacy was sent for and he came with his bear dogs. The bear was jumped and after a short chase the dogs stopped him. Tacy was not far behind the dogs, and he came up and shot the bear. It took a lot of shooting to get him down. He was a very old and large one. His

He was a very old and large one. His teeth were worn off, indicating an age of possibly twenty years or more. The weight was placed at over 400 pounds. The fur was fine.

Of course it is hard to identify every big bear that roams these woods but last week Fred Galford, who lives on Williams River, told this editor that a big bear with worn tushes had come from Cranberry through the Williams River range, heading for Elk. He said it was a good guess that there would be sheep killing reported from that section soon. This editor believes Fred read the sign aright. Somebody had shot this bear with a load of b b shot some time ago. Last fall Early Ruckman saw a big bear at his farm on Stamping Creek. He had nothing to shoot with except a shot gun loaded with b b's. He gave the bear this as it ran up the hill. He knows he hit, but the bear went on. Maybe this is some thing else to back the presumption that the bear killed on Elk was an old sheep killer that ranged the Back Alleghany from one end of the county to the other.

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Some weeks ago the bears got so bad and killed so many sheep on Cranberry that George Edgar had to move his big flocks into the settlement. Then they killed so many for Fred Ruckman on the Blue Lick of Stamping Creek that he had to move his sheep to the home farm. Then Winters Rose and R. H. Auldridge began to have their flocks raided. Mr. Rose lost ten head one night and another

night bears got six head for Mr. Auldridge.

Last Thursday night a bear come into the Stamping Creek neighborhood and killed a sheep. He come back Friday night and ate it up. In the mean time, Charles Tacy of Cass, Dick Smith of Edray, and Ernest Jackson of Woodrow, all bear hunters with bear fighting dogs, were lined up. Uncle Jim Gibson, Elk, sent his bear dog too.

The whole neighborhood turned out and the stands were filled. There were between thirty and forty men, and six bear dogs.

The bear was trailed to the Red Oak Flat on the head of Williams River. Here the dogs were turned loose and soon the bear was up and going. Charles Tacy, Ernest Jackson and Dick Smith followed the dogs. The dogs stopped the bear often and it was a considerable of a bear and dog fight for some two or three miles. On Little Black Mountain, not far from the Barlow Top the dogs held the bear until the hunters could come up. The cover was thick, but Mr. Tacy got sight on the bear and shot him in the right side, a little far back to lay him out immediately. His second bullet was deflected by a bush, and then Ernest

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Jackson got a shot and his bullet was also turned aside by a sapling. The bear turned and ran in sight of Dick Smith, and that old settler gave him one in the shoulder with a high powered rifle the ball ranging back, and he went down to rise no more. This was the second bear in two days for Charles Tacy, and the fifteenth he has killed from his old bear dog.

This was a big bear, weighing around 400 pounds. His fur was prime. He had but three legs, one front paw having been cut off in a trap. His age was was guessed at eight or nine years. He was full grown, but his teeth showed no signs of wear. It is estimated that in the past few years that this bear has killed five thousand dollars worth of sheep. He had to have his sheep, even if he had to come into the settlement for them.

Four years ago George Edgar caught a medium sized bear in a trap. The bear pulled out and left his paw in the trap. He lead a sinful life, costing the sheep men dearly, but he is finally a good bear.

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Millpoint, W. Va. June 4—Three Foot is dead, but he brought terrible vengeance on man, his enemy, for the

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Millpoint, W. Va. June 4—Three Foot is dead, but he brought terrible vengeance on man, his enemy, for the thing that man had done to him some three years ago.

Three years ago he was just an ordinary bear, gone wrong. He was not yet wise to the schemes of men. He killed a sheep for George Edgar and ate what he wanted. The next night he returned to finish the kill. Suddenly he was gripped by the spiked jaws of a forty-pound steel trap. Filled with a terrible rage he crashed through the brush leaving a trail of tangled bushes. After a time the anchor caught and held and the bear in his rage heaved so mightily that he was freed, but not without the loss of the right front foot.

Early that morning came George Henry McNeel, Geo. Beard and others hot-footing it on the trail. Presently they came to where the havoc seemed to cease. With cocked guns they advanced cautiously to make the kill.

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"Hell", exploded one of the party, the others looked and saw the trap with a cold and bloody bear's foot. One of the others spat viciously at a sapling fifteen feet away and hit it. Then they turned sorrowfully and silently away; the expression of each being like that of a cold buckwheat cake on a frosty morning.

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two resembling toes, so much so that that none of the many hunters tracking him lately ever suspected that they were trailing Three Foot as he was named.

Since that terrible experience Three Foot has not often returned to a kill the second time. Never, if there had been a trap set. Many hundreds of sheep has he slaughtered. Many times have men and dogs gone forth to give him chase, but always he eluded them with his cunningness.

This year he started work near the first of April on Williams River. From there he moved to Cranberry, and as the sheepmen moved the sheep back he followed the retreating line down onto Stamping Creek, where no bear had ever ventured before, within the memory of any man now living. More than forty sheep and lambs were killed by him during the months of April and May.

Dick Smith was called to the rescue and with his very efficient help and advice. A chase was arranged for Saturday, June 3rd. He arranged with Charlie Tacy to come with his dogs from Cass and Ernest Jackson with Uncle Jim Gibson's dog from Elk.

When this party arrived on top of Cranberry Mountain early that morn

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five grim, determined looking armed  
men awaiting them; not including  
Reube Auldridge burdened with good  
things to eat and Penick Ryder arm-  
ed with a cane. Somehow I had a  
feeling from the looks and manner of  
the party that Three Foot was speed-  
ily coming to a well deserved end.

Emory Miller, a veteran bear hunt-  
er was put in charge of the men on  
stands and he flung a line of men and  
and fresh dogs from the High Rocks  
to the Big Loop on Black Mountain.

It fell to my lot to hold the leash  
of Ratler, Dick's trailer, an honor of  
which I was proud; for I would put  
him against any dog in the state for  
picking up a cold trail.

After circling and recircling for  
hours on the trail of the killer we  
came at last so close that the dogs  
were almost out of control.

Dick left us and took a near cut to  
where he thought the bear would  
cross. A few minutes later we re-  
leased the dogs and within two minu-  
tes the bear was up. By straining  
every muscle, I could keep just close  
enough to Jackson, going down hill,  
to catch the back of the bear.

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lost sight of him in a moment and in  
a few minutes hearing as well. I  
made my way to Mountain Lick Run  
thinking the men and dogs on the  
stands might possibly turn the chase  
that way. Within half the time it  
seemed possible to me for men to go  
so far. I heard shots on Little Black  
Mountain. Smith, Tacy and Jackson  
had overhauled him. A bullet from  
a 38 Winchester crashed entirely thru  
him just back of heart. On he came  
crashing through bushes and briars,  
leaping logs and stumps. Then a 30-  
30 spat in his side just behind the  
shoulder, passed through and lodged  
against the opposite hip bone.

With a mighty effort he heaved  
himself upon his fore legs to give  
battle, only to suffer the indignity of  
little Nig, the smallest of the dogs  
fastened himself to his nose. Slowly  
he sank down and with one last  
growl Three Foot was dead.

Fred Ruckman

## DURBIN

Our town was made to sorrow by  
the death of L. C. Frazier. He was  
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## BEARS

Minnehaha Springs.—Last Friday night a bear killed two sheep for Ellis Dean. Charles and Dallas Tacy the bear killers, were sent for to bring their bear dogs and rid the Allegheny range of this pestiferous sheep killer. Monday morning the Tacys came. Among the local people who joined in the hunt were Ellis Glen, Forrest and James Dean, M. J. and Ernest White, Lock Herold, Frank, Randall, A. P. and Summers Ryder, Lewis Turner, Mike O'Ferrell D. W. Kershder, M. E. Shinabery, O. G. Gum and Elmer Moore.

About 8 o'clock the dogs were put on the trail where the bear had killed the two sheep. They followed to the top of Allegheny mountain, near Rimel, where the bear was overtaken. The dogs fought him for about an hour. Then Mr. Tacy came up and killed the bear. This bear had been shot about four times before.

This bear has been a noted sheep thief for several years, and he has cost the farmers



shot about four times before.

This bear has been a noted sheep thief for several years, and he has cost the farmers a great deal in the loss of sheep. He was educated and would not go into a taap. If any community wants to rid themselves of their sheep killing bears, just call on the Tacys; they turn the trick.

Coon meat am very good, and turkey is mighty fine; but if you let me choose, its bear meat for mine.

M. E. S.

One night last week a bear killed a sheep for Sheriff Reid Moore, at his farm near Linwood. A trap was set, but when the bear came back on Thursday night he stepped over the trap, and ate his fill and went off. Charles and Dallas Tacy were cailed in, and a lot of neighbors gathered for the hunt. Friday morning in coming around the mountain, the Tacys saw where a big bear had come out of Cheat and killed a sheep for

Dallas Tacy. It was a considerable of a temptation to put the dogs on this bear, but their word was out and they came on.

The bear had gone back to Cheat, and had laid down in a notch in the mountain top. The dogs soon had him up and going. He crossed the Western Maryland in the big cut not far from Spruce. Then some three miles further and into the rocks on Tygarts River side of the mountain. He was in a big crevice. The dogs were on a rock shelf about eight feet above the bear and could not get at him. Charles Tacy came up, and soon there was another good bear. He was a three year old, and would weigh around 300 pounds.

The next day on their way back home the dogs were cold trailing and came on to a bear in his bed. When the men came up, the bear ran off, but the dogs soon had him up a tree. This was a 300 pound, three year old bear too. It was the same bear that had killed Dallas Tacy's sheep. This was the third bear for that week; the fifth this fall, and the twentieth



## Two Bears Killed During Past Week

### Both Said to Have Been Biggest Sheep Killers Ever In This Section

When the Tacy's get bruin located, take their dogs and go after his scalp, the odds of life are against him, it was proven last week when they participated in two bear hunts and caused two old sheep killers to breathe their last.

An old bear had been killing sheep in the Cheat Mountain section for some time. Last Thursday, he was located near Linwood. The word spread, and Charlie and Dallas Tacy, with their dogs, and Jim Gibson with his dogs, along with a number of others, formed a party and went after bruin. He was routed on the Cheat River side of the mountain, and the chase did not last two miles until Charles Tacy planted several effective shots in his skin. It was estimated that the bear would exceed 450 pounds.

The night before the chase, what is thought to have been the same bear, cunningly evaded getting in a trap. One had been set and the remains of a sheep hung above it. Instead of feasting on the old sheep, bruin stuck his paw under the trap, threw it down over the hill, and went out and killed another sheep.

A 350 pound bear was killed on the head of Williams River Saturday by Dick Smith, and the Tacy boys. It is thought to have been the one which has killed a large number of sheep for farmers in that section.

### CONLEY WILL SPEAK AT DROOP MOUNTAIN

Arrangements have been made for Governor Wm. G. Conley to be the principal speaker at the Mountain battlefield celebration held on the Fourth of July.

The celebration has been arranged by the citizens of the county memorial commission which was authorized by the legislature.

J. A. McLaughlin, former member of the legislature from this county and chairman of the local Mountain Battlefield commission, accepted the invitation to the celebration several weeks ago after it was decided to have the Independence Celebration.

## Stream Pollution Will Be Discussed

### New Water Commission Plans Meeting to Enforce Cleanliness

The act creating the water commission became effective last week. The commission was designed to prevent the pollution of streams in this state.

At a preliminary meeting of the commission, which was held last week, W. T. Henshaw, state commissioner; I. Wade, county commissioner; and Edward Cooney, chairman of the public safety commission, and Edward Cooney, chairman of the state fish commission, Dr. J. S. Tisdale, elected chairman of the commission, and E. S. Tisdale, secretary of the state health department, were appointed secretary.